

**Stamford School Readiness Council
Health & Wellness Committee Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2013
12:00 p.m.
United Way of Western CT
1150 Summer Street, 2nd Floor**

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

Dr. Madhu Mathur; <i>Chair, Health & Wellness Committee</i>	Director KIDS' FANS Wellness Program; Medical Director, Regional Medical Home Initiative, Southwest CT, Stamford Hospital and Chair, Obesity Task Force, Stamford
Donna Arcuri	School Readiness Liaison, Mayor's Office, City of Stamford
Elizabeth Anavy	Nurse Practitioner, Family Centers at William Pitt Child Development Ctr
Karen Brennan	Stamford Discovery Coordinator, United Way of Western CT
Jennienne Peoples Burke	Health Educator, Family Centers
Lucia Cook	Acting Executive Director, Literacy Volunteers Stamford/Greenwich
Adele Gordon	Director, Fairfield County, Community Health Center, Inc.
Kerri Hagan	Public Health Educator, Health Department, City of Stamford
Patricia Lamothe	Inspector, Health Department, City of Stamford
Karina Reininger	Dental Health Care Specialist, CT Dental Health Partnership
Dr. Helene Strazza	Pediatric Dentist, All About Kids
Ellen Swam	Early Childhood Consultation Partnership, Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Center

Guests

Michelle Lappas	Stamford Youth Services Bureau
Ida Lupinacci	Parent Advocate, Medical Home Initiative

Dr. Madhu Mathur, the Health and Wellness Committee chair, opened the meeting by restating the importance of the work the Health and Wellness Committee is focusing on around obesity, medical home, asthma, mental health, and oral health.

Introduction to Medical Home Initiative (Ida Lupinacci)

Ida Lupinacci, Parent Coordinator for the Medical Home Initiative of Southwest CT, gave an overview of the program for the group. A medical home is not a building, house, or hospital, but an approach to providing comprehensive primary care. In a medical home, a pediatric health care provider works in partnership with children and youth and their families to assure that all the medical and non-medical needs of the children and youth are met.

The Medical Home Initiative of Southwest CT serves children with special health care needs or those at risk. Special health care needs are any chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or

emotional conditions that require health care or treatment that is greater than what typical children require. The Medical Home team is comprised of a physician champion, a pediatric nurse practitioner, a licensed clinical social worker, a parent partner, and an administrative assistant/care coordinator. Medical home links services and provides coordination of care by trained professionals.

The initiative is funded by a grant from the Department of Public Health; they do not deal with private insurance. Children up to the age of 21 are eligible to receive services.

Committee Sharing

Dr. Mathur invited committee members to reintroduce their work to the group.

Adele Gordon described the preventative care programs being run by the **Community Health Center**, noting that the Center provides primary medical care for adults and children, well child care and immunizations, nutrition counseling, and comprehensive dental care. Issues most commonly addressed include diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. They do not offer any social services, but do take all insurance plans and they have a sliding fee scale for those who are uninsured.

Dr. Helene Strazza from **All About Kids** described her work in Stamford. She sees about 40 patients a day, 70% of which are under the age of eight. Today they are seeing more and more one and two year olds—children who have yet to get all their teeth, but whom already have cavities. Their goal is to educate parents and caregivers so that there is less fear of the dentist and better overall dental health.

Karina Reininger, a Dental Health Care Specialist, spoke briefly about the **CT Dental Health Partnership**—the State's publically funded dental health care system. She explained that one of the biggest concerns today is how to get pregnant teens to go to the dentist, since their oral health directly impacts their unborn infant's.

Ellen Swan from the **Early Childhood Consultation Partnership, Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Center**, gave an overview of the services they offer. The Early Childhood Consultation Partnership is a statewide program funded by the Department of Children and Families and managed by Advanced Behavioral Health, Inc. It is designed to offer Early Childhood educators and families relationship-based consultation services. These services focus upon the healthy social and emotional development of children birth to five. The overall services offered are based upon a continuum from brief phone consultation to center-based consultation to child-specific consultation. Interventions are largely determined by a collaborative effort of directors, teachers, support staff, families, and consultants.

Patricia Lamothe, Health Inspector with the **City of Stamford's Health Department**, said her primary focus at the moment is on lead inspections and all the environmental factors associated with lead. She encouraged the group to reach out if home inspections are needed, 203-977-4399.

Liz Anvy, Nurse Practitioner at the **William Pitt Child Development Center**, spoke about her work doing health screenings, sick visits, and preventative care (e.g., flu shots) in a preschool environment.

Michelle Lappas, attending on behalf of Terri Drew from the **City of Stamford's Youth Services Bureau**, reinforced that Terri has a large list serve group and will happily disseminate any materials aimed at youth and their families. All information should be sent to tdrew@ci.stamford.ct.us.

Next Meeting

The Health and Wellness Committee will next meet on Monday, March 11 at the United Way of Western CT, 1150 Summer Street, 2nd Floor.